

Craig gets a new best Matt!

VINES MAN FINALLY GETS TO MEET FAVOURITE BAND MUSE AT STAR-STUDED NME SHOWS



Cheers: Matt and Craig toast another good night's work saving rock

Craig Nicholls has met his Muse! Well, **Muse's Matt Bellamy** at least. **The Vines** are huge Muse fans and personally invited the group to see them play on the last date of the *NME Term Warfare* tour at the London Shepherd's Bush Empire last week (November 4).

NME hooked up with Craig and Matt at The Vines' aftershow party (see picture). Speaking of his love for Muse, he recently said: "I really think they're a great band, they're really new, very hard and intelligent. There's a lot of sophistication about them, and they're young, too – the singer's about the same age as me. I just think he's like the greatest guitar

player and piano player. I heard the album last year in Australia and flipped out. It was the best thing I'd heard in ten years."

Bellamy said he hopes to get studio advice from The Vines as they both prepare to go into the studio to work on new albums.

He said: "That is the first time I've seen them. Can I see an influence? Not really. I think what they're doing is quite raw. I'm starting to record a new album in a few weeks time. We've been talking about where we're going to record it and stuff like that, that kind of thing."

The Vines attracted a stellar crowd over three nights at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. Other stars in attendance included **Starsailor**, **Supergrass** and **The Libertines**.



"If you're gonna start pulling funny faces I'm off, mate"

WHAT'S ON THE NME STEREO?

My Morning Jacket Sweatbees EP

Fans of these five dudes from Louisville, Kentucky and their mournful, open-toe sandalled Americana include Dave Grohl, Krist Novoselic and Doves.

The Warlocks

Phoenix Album EP (Birdman)
Heavy metal clan do space-rock. No, really.

Eminem

Lose Yourself (Shady Records)
Lifted from the *8 Mile* soundtrack, it's great 'cos it's hip-hop's equivalent of the *Rocky* theme.

The Walkmen Look Out The Window (Marcata)

Mambo-infused rock'n'roll from NYC.

Missy Elliott Under Construction LP (eastwest)

Features cameos from Jay-Z, Beyoncé and Ludacris.

Rocket Science Heavy Traffic (Modular)

Small Faces-like sounds from Supergrass' favourite new band.

The Basement

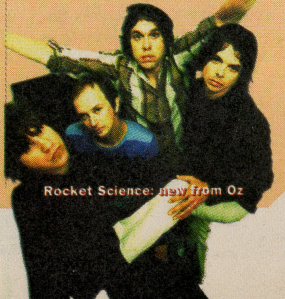
Medicine Day (Deltasonic)
Jangly Dylan-loving hijinx from Omagh-based three-piece.

P-Cutta Presents Street Wars LP (Bootleg)

DMX Vs Ja Rule, Nelly Vs KRS-One, 60-track compilation of hip-hop's rarest mixtape disses.

The Juan McLean You Can't Have It Both Ways (DFA)

New York punk/funk/electroclash/rock'n'roll.



Rocket Science: new from Oz

NEW BAND NEWS

As all but the brain-dead will have noticed, there's loads of great new music by top new bands around at the moment. We want to make sure you carry on getting the hottest new music info so this issue you might notice a couple of changes.

We've expanded our new music coverage and spread it from cover to cover to make it more accessible than ever.

NME has always been the place to bring you the hottest new bands first and with these improvements we'll be able to do that job better than ever before.

Conor McNicholas

Conor McNicholas, Editor



Eighties Matchbox: unleashed

average Welsh indie band Murry The Hump), released through Beggars Banquet, is a surprisingly sparkling slice of pop. Who'd have thought it eh?... As previously featured in *NME*,

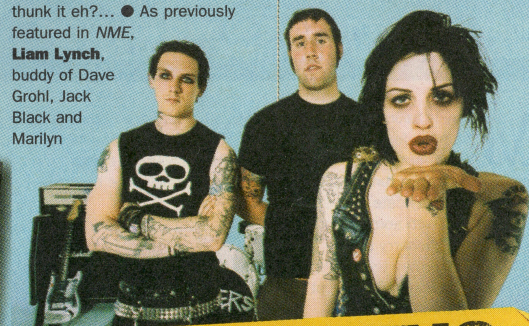
Liam Lynch, buddy of Dave Grohl, Jack Black and Marilyn

Courtney Love's current listening, **The Distillers**, release 'City Of Angels' via HellCat... ● 'Girl Next Door', the debut single from **The Keys** (formerly half of now defunct

Manson, finally releases his 86-second long ode to, erm, 'Whatever' this Monday via Global Warning records...

● Finally, see this week's *Gig Guide* pages for your last chance this year to check out hot new band action from **Baxter Dury**, **Cranebuilders** and **The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster** as they each wind up their 2002 with a stint on the road...

The Distillers: they've got spirit



INTRODUCING...



Who are they?

Dundee-based five piece Andy McGarry (vocals), Anthony Brachi (guitar/vocals), Chris Bridges (guitar), Les Ogilvie (Bass) and Martin Robison (drums) are the most exciting Scottish rock'n'roll band to emerge for aeons.

Why Mercury Tilt Switch?

McGarry: "It's an engineering device. It's basically a switch that's put in electronic devices and makes things happen. I really like that idea."

What do they sound like?

Think early Fugazi (see 'Radar Response') or At The Drive-In's finest moments ('Half Time Shankly'). Although lead singer McGarry bashfully plays down any such comparisons. "The minute you're in the same sentence as those guys, I mean,

how can any band be as good as At The Drive-In or Fugazi?"

Tour tales...

MTS hit the road the hard way during their recent stint supporting Hell Is For Heroes. McGarry: "We spent a lot of time in tents, camping in motorway services. It had to be done – we couldn't afford to do it any other way."

Where can we hear them?

Their debut album 'Brundle Kid' is as mighty a chunk of British emo as Hundred Reasons' 'Ideas Beyond Our Station'. McGarry: "There's a lot of thought that goes into what we do but at the end of the day it's all punk rock."

Mercury Tilt Switch's debut album, 'Brundle Kid', is out now through Pet Piranha/1970 recordings, distributed by Cargo

Burning Brides

Fall Of The Plastic Empire LP (V2)

Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins and Black Sabbath-influenced noise from Philadelphia-based three-piece limbering up to be heroes of the new rock revolution in 2003.

